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Minutes of March 2, 2009

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2009.

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, Jeff Roth, Ted Packard, and Scott Smith. Joey Glushko and Chad Gibson were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

*The minutes from the February meeting were approved without correction.

Comment on recent events, including ABAC Winter Social held last week. We discussed the low attendance at the social. The event was not publicized because we did not have the entire hall and we were afraid that too many people would attend. We discussed the possibility of using different venues in the future like a local restaurant or fraternal organization. Ted suggested the possibility of the new Quad Cycle basement. We discussed Will Brownsberger's proposal that bicyclists be allowed to ride through red lights after first stopping. We were generally not in favor of this proposal.

Update on bike-rack installations: Business contacts and order/grant status. The business contacts have gone very well. Many of the merchants are excited about the prospect of having bike racks in front of their businesses. A few of the merchants volunteered to make donations in favor of supporting the installation of additional racks. Joey gave us a brief overview of the financial aspects of the project.

Update on memo to abutters on open-space encroachments along the Minuteman Bikeway. We are waiting for the Open Space Committee to endorse our letter to the abutters. Jack asked that we include a prohibition of dumping snow on the path. Jeff thought that the current letter was overly punitive in tone. We discussed the original reasons for writing the letter.

Update on the Mass. Ave. Corridor project. Joey gave us an update on the project and informed us that there have been meetings with businesses along the road who object to some or most aspects of the project. The next step is the review of the 25% plan. Joey then explained the MassHighway design process to us.

Jack reminded us that bicycle accommodation is a necessary requirement for the project to receive state funding. Chad thinks that the East Arlington neighborhoods are subsidizing the merchants along Mass. Ave. with parking and so they should be more flexible in supporting amenities for their residential neighbors. He also warned us that we need to continue to support and advocate for the implementation of this project and that bike advocates should continue to attend future meetings. Ron suggested that we seek allies among the East Arlington businesses.

Discuss the route for BIKE-Arlington Tour on Sunday Morning, May 17. We began this topic by discussing possible new routes for the tour. Joey suggested that we ride down the Sunnyside driveway behind Sunnyside Ave. Jack was not in favor of the idea. Joey then suggested that we ride down Reed St. near McClenen Park. Jack added that this is the year to ride up Summer St. because the state renovation of that street is finally complete. Chad thought that that would make the ride too long if we start at Spy Pond. We then discussed the possibility of starting the ride at the recreation center. Ron would like to see a ride centered around the Great Meadows and McClenen Park as we have never had a ride in that part of town. We deferred the choice of the final route to the next meeting.

Discuss the ABAC master bicycle plan and project planning. At the last meeting we decided to look at bicycle plans from other areas and towns which may be available to us. Ron gave us a brief summary of the Sustainable Northampton plan that can be found on the web. Chad looked at a plan from Ft. Collins and Boulder, Colorado. The

Ft. Collins plan is very extensive. We also discussed the Arlington, Virginia, county website. Chad thought we should put more cycling information on the web such as a bicycle page on the Arlington Town web site. We discussed the ease of currently finding information on biking in Arlington on-line.

Update on Jeff Roth, moving to Belmont in May. Jack told us that Jeff is moving in the spring. We expressed our sorrow over his leaving the committee.

Open forum. We briefly discussed DCR's Alewife Brook Greenway project. Chad suggested that the bike committees of the cities and towns adjacent to the project write a joint letter to the DCR, supporting the bike path included in the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37.

*Denotes a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller